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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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The Bureau of Land Management, an agency within the Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing the nation's public lands and resources in a combination of ways that best serves the needs of the American people. Management is based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield — a combination of uses that balances the needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

In 1812, Congress established the General Land Office to administer the public domain. The passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934 established the U.S. Grazing Service to provide active range management on public domain lands. In 1946, the Presidential Reorganization Plan No. 2 merged the Grazing Service with the General Land Office to create the Bureau of Land Management within the Department of the Interior.

The BLM's national office is in Washington, D.C. In addition, there are 12 state offices, 58 district offices and 140 resource area offices. The BLM has about 9,650 employees, most of whom work in field offices in the West. Multiple use management requires many skills and talents. Foresters, range conservationists, wildlife biologists, archaeologists, cadastral surveyors, engineers, recreation specialists, and many other professionals are needed to care for and manage the public lands.